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ORGANIZAÇÕES NÃO GOVERNAMENTAIS
PORTUGUESAS PARA A COOPERAÇÃO
E DESENVOLVIMENTO
COMISSÃO PERMANENTE

MR. RICHARD ARNDELL
DGVIII - INDONESIA DESK
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B-1049 BRUSSELS

Lisbon, 8th November 1993

Dear Sir,

During a recent meeting of the Financing Group of the EEC / NGO's Liaison Committee, Mr. Claude Jacques, in charge of EEC Budget Line B7-5041 - Tropical Forestries, kindly informed the Group about recent applications to that budget line, including a financial support to an Indonesia government project.

The portuguese member of the Group asked for some more specific information, but Mr. Claude Jacques informed that the best source for that should be Mr. Arndell and suggested a contact with you. We, as Standing Committee of portuguese NGO's, all share a deep concern on that matter because of East Timor situation.

Being so, we would like to ask you some more detailed information on that Indomesia government project and EEC support, including:

- does the project include any activity inside East Timor border? If yes, witch activities?
- witch are the specific activities supported by the EEC contribution?
- the planned activities can, direct or indirectly, affect East Timor territory?

Our concern is based on two main points: the first one is that East Timor is a non autonomous territory, where there has not yet been given to the population the opportunity to decide, in a free and fair way, their destiny, according to the United Nations Charter and the U.N. relevant resolutions. This context prevents EEC of any support to Indonesia government witch could be considered as a legitimacy of the colonial and ilegal occupation of East Timor.

The second point refers to the EEC policy decision on the linkage between aid and the observance of human rights. In our days, nobody has any doubt that Indonesia government sistematicly violates human rights, not only in East Timor but also inside its territory (the most flagrant exemple in recent years is shown in Aceh Province).

Finally, and concerning specifically the problems of environment and tropical forests, there are recent news, coming from Indonesia and East Timor, that reinforce our concern on any support to Indonesia government on this matter. According to those news, Indonesia Army (ABRI) in East Timor has been setting fires in timorese forests as a weapon on his fight against the national resistance.

Also, an indonesian professor on the Satya Wacana Christian University, Central Java, published recently a study on environmental problems in East Timor. His report reinforce the need of an international surveillance and pressure on the environmental questions in the territory.

Next to this, you will find some information on recent developments on the forestry fires that are gutting the forests in all the 13 regencies of East Timor, as well as the report of the indonesian university professor. From our point of view, this situation needs to be followed permanently by the EEC. Also, an investigation mission - previously to any EEC tranche to the refered project - would be appropriated.

We are sure you will take note on our concern.

Sincercely yours



(Fátima Proença)

Standing Committee of NGDO's

c.c.: Mr. Claude Jacques, DG I - Bâtiment Science

: Portuguese Reper

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